

REMARKS

In the Examiner's opinion, the independent claim 33 is anticipated by Pitchforth. The applicant does not agree with that. Claim 33 requires that if the OTDR detects optical signals introduced at the first point of the optical fiber, then the OTDR prevents itself from sending the OTDR signals. The benefit of the approach presented in claim 33 is that the OTDR is not allowed to send its signals (which are very strong pulses) if the fiber is not broken, because sending such strong pulses could damage the optical component attached at the first point of the optical fiber. In the present invention, the strong OTDR pulses are sent only when it is safe to do so.

Pitchforth fails to disclose or suggest detecting signals introduced at the first point of the optical fiber and preventing the OTDR from transmitting the OTDR signal in case of such detection. What Pitchforth discloses is the Rx circuit 204 for detecting signals transmitted by the OTDR and then reflected from the break in the optical fiber (see paragraph 33, last five lines.)

In view of these differences it is the applicant's opinion that the invention as defined in the independent claim 33 is new and inventive and therefore the claims dependent on claim 33 are also new and inventive.

Petition is hereby made for a one-month extension of the period to respond to the outstanding Official Action to December 7, 2007. A check in the amount of \$120.00, as the Petition fee, is enclosed herewith. If there are any additional charges, or any overpayment, in connection with the filing of the amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such deficiency, or credit any such overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-1145.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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